



United States Department of
Health & Human Services

**Office of the Secretary
Office of the Assistant Secretary for
Preparedness and Response (ASPR)**

Situational Awareness

PAHPA Stakeholders Meeting

**November 8, 2007
Washington, D.C.**

Agenda

- Briefings
 - Situational Awareness
 - IT
 - Telehealth
 - Credentialing
- Comments and Questions

Situational Awareness Mandate

“IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, the Secretary, in collaboration with State, local, and tribal public health officials, shall establish a near real-time electronic nationwide public health situational awareness capability through an interoperable network of systems to share data and information to enhance early detection of rapid response to, and management of, potentially catastrophic infectious disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies that originate domestically or abroad. Such network shall be built on existing State situational awareness systems or enhanced systems that enable such connectivity.”

Situational Awareness

- Recognition of our environment and our place in it that allows us to accurately forecast consequences
 - Detecting health threats
 - Identifying prevention and containment opportunities and monitoring their implementation
 - Monitoring and managing critical resources (information, personnel, and materiel supply chains)
- Knowing just what you need to know to make the right decisions

Components of Situational Awareness

- **Health-related events** (cases and aggregate behaviors by time, place, person) collected for the purpose of public health action
- **Critical response resources** (e.g., countermeasure management and delivery; personnel tracking; transportation, information systems functions)
- **Medical/health care capacity** (e.g., hospital bed availability)
- **Environmental threats** (e.g., location of vulnerable chemical repositories)
- **Public awareness and information needs**
- **Preparedness status** (e.g., performance measure tracking and report cards in the pre-event phase)

Situational Awareness at DHHS

- Core business
 - Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response: focal point for health event notification and disaster medical care
 - Office of National Coordinator: accelerate the adoption of health information technology
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: applying advances in technology and professional networks to population health
 - Indian Health Service: adapting a health system for excellence in clinical and population medicine
- Inter-governmental partner (DHS, DoD, EPA, USDA, SLTT governments, etc.)

Situational Awareness: Recent Progress

- Incident Detection and Investigation
 - Information platforms (data standards, ELR, HIE)
 - Expanding data sources
 - Analysis and visualization tools
 - Two-way bridges between medical and public health practice
- Integrated Incident Management (ESF-8)
 - Human networks and notification algorithms
 - Common technology platforms
 - Exercises and on-the-ground experience

Situational Awareness: Way Forward

- Sustain commitments to platforms, data source assessment, analysis and visualization, and reporting
- Engage partners and stakeholders in planning for a system-of-systems
- Fashion an agile strategy for nationwide public health situational awareness
- Execute the strategy priorities in accordance with the resources available

Situational Awareness: Strategic Plan

- Establish Intergovernmental Steering Committee
- Gather preliminary inventory and analysis
- Establish primary users and necessary capabilities
- Establish a plan for privacy and security
- Develop conceptual framework
- Develop conceptual architecture
- Develop an evaluation plan
- Conduct staged implementation

Use of Information Technology for Situational Awareness

SEC. 202. USING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS IN PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES.

Establish a near real-time electronic nationwide public health situational awareness capability through an interoperable network of systems to share data and information to enhance early detection of public health emergencies that originate domestically or abroad.

- Utilize applicable *interoperability standards*
- Define minimal data elements for such network
- Integrate and build upon existing State, local, and tribal capabilities, ensuring *simultaneous sharing of data, information, and analyses*

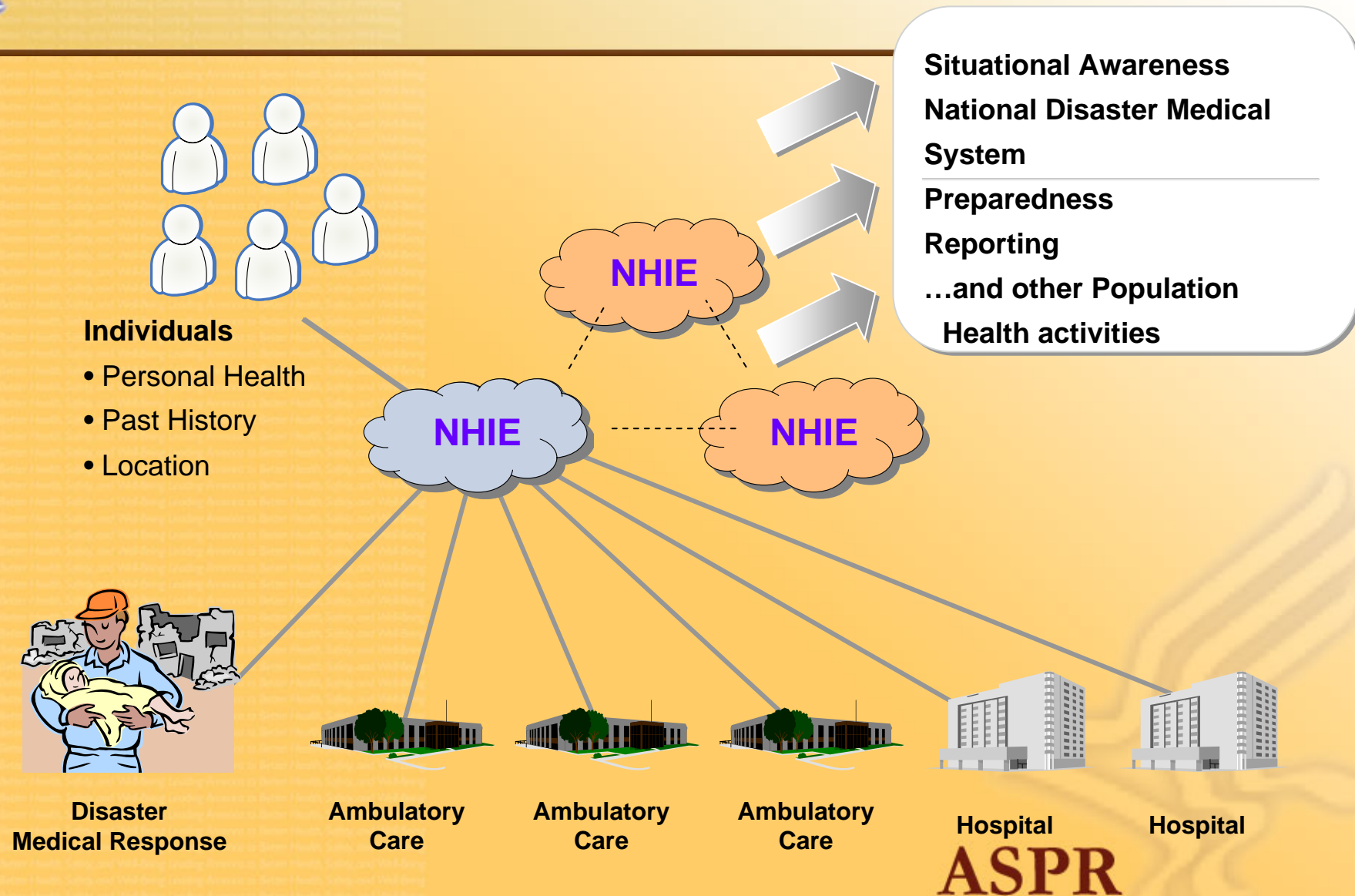
PAHPA Solution -- Establish HIT Infrastructure , Promote Interoperability and Promote Standards Adoption

The Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN)

Provides a secure, nationwide, interoperable health information infrastructure that will connect providers, consumers, and users of data involved in supporting healthcare.



NHIN “Network of Networks”



Collaboration Opportunities

- **American Health Information Community (AHIC)**
 - a federal advisory body fostering a public-private collaboration to accelerate the development and adoption of health information technology
 - Addressing *real world needs* in care delivery and population health which include Laboratory Results, Reporting, Biosurveillance, and Emergency Response Reporting
- **Federal Health Architecture (FHA)**
 - Creating tools and solutions to advance a federal Health IT environment that is interoperable with the private sector and supports the national health IT agenda enabling better care, increased efficiency, and improved population health. 26 federal agencies are participating in this e-gov initiative.
 - *Leading to*

A cross agency collaboration to create solutions to be used by the agencies for health information exchange inside and outside the federal government



- **Biosurveillance**

- Transmit essential ambulatory care and emergency department visit, utilization, and lab result data from electronically enabled health care delivery and public health systems in standardized and anonymized format to authorized Public Health Agencies with less than one day lag time.
- (PL 107-188, the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002)

- **Emergency Responder EHR**

- Describes the role that an emergency responder electronic health record, comprising at a minimum demographic, medication, allergy and problem list information, that can be used to support emergency and routine health care activities.



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Telehealth Initiatives

- Connectivity-critical component of telehealth
 - Ongoing discussions with the Federal Communications Commission towards establishing alternate pathway of communication during disasters.
- Joint Patient Assessment and Tracking System
 - Collaboration with DoD has produced a web-based application which will track the health information, status, and location of individuals treated and evacuated from a disaster area.
 - Electronic medical records system utilized for the California wildfires medical response. Capturing demographic and health care trends.
- Inventory of Federal Telehealth Initiatives
 - HHS is developing a report which will identify federal agencies with telehealth initiatives.

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Credentialing

- **HHS is engaged in discussions with the states to allow the Federal Government read only access to their credentialing and privileging sites.**
- **Data call to Federal agencies regarding their credentialing process. Discussion of interoperability and sharing credentialing data of health care providers across federal agencies during an emergency.**
- **Discussion with Hospital Preparedness group to establish further dialogue regarding the ESAR-VHP program and sharing the provider data with the Federal Government and across jurisdictions during an emergency.**

***Emergency System for Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals**